

## **REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Applicant responds herein to the Office Action dated October 27, 2006.

Claim 8 has been withdrawn from consideration as being directed to a non-elected invention.

Claims 1, 2, and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Muurinen, U.S. Patent No. 5,408,060. Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to provide, in part, for, “[a] key input device comprising: key input means for inputting characters by key input in a plurality of character input modes; ... a key backlight which is placed on a lower surface of said key input means and is lighted in a plurality of colors; ... said key input means comprising a plurality of keys, said key backlight comprising light-emitting means located at a lower surface of the respective keys and located below the bottom of a top surface of the respective keys if the respective keys are viewed in a direction perpendicular to the top surface of the respective keys.”

Antecedent basis for the amendment to claim 1 is found, for example, in the drawings, in Fig. 6.

In contrast, Muurinen only shows light-emitting means which are located between the bottom and top of a top surface of the respective keys if the respective keys are viewed in a direction perpendicular to the top surface of the respective keys, as long as the light-emitting means are located at a lower surface of the respective keys, (see Figs. 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 13).

Since each of claims 2 and 9 is directly dependent on independent claim 1, each of claims 2 and 9 is allowable over Muurinen for the same reasons recited above with respect to the allowability of independent claim 1 over Muurinen.

Claims 3-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Muurinen in view of Kimura, U.S. Patent No. 6,762,740. Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Since each of claims 3-7 is directly or indirectly dependent upon independent claim 1, each of claims 3-7 is allowable over Muurinen for the same reasons recited above with respect to the allowability of independent claim 1 over Muurinen.

With regard to Kimura, it does not disclose, teach, or suggest "light-emitting means ... located below the bottom of a top surface of the respective keys if the respective keys are viewed in a direction perpendicular to the top surface of the respective keys," as claimed in independent claim 1, and, therefore, in dependent claims 3-7.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, allowance of claims 1-7 and 9 is respectfully requested.

Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the application, allow the claims as amended and pass this case to issue.

THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS BEING  
SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY  
THROUGH THE UNITED STATES  
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  
EFS FILING SYSTEM  
ON JANUARY 25, 2007

Respectfully submitted,



MAX MOSKOWITZ  
Registration No.: 30,576  
OSTROLENK, FABER, GERB & SOFFEN, LLP  
1180 Avenue of the Americas  
New York, New York 10036-8403  
Telephone: (212) 382-0700